

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue,**

**School Department Conference Room 306**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**February 26, 2014**

## **Open Session**

**Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM. Members Present: Timothy Conley, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro. Also present: Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director, Edward Catelli, Facilities Director.**

**Motion by Mr. Conley that the School Committee convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel-R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5 (a) (1), seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 3-0.**

**Return to Public Session – Motion by Mr. Conley to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 3-0.**

**Report Executive Session Votes – No votes taken.**

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Moment of Silence were observed.**

**Action Item(s) High School Science Lab Facilities-Presentation-Approval of Change Order to Existing Request for Proposals (RFP)**

**Jim Farrar of Farrar Associates, Inc. – provided an update on the renovation project: He explained that the project was based on system wide repairs and as the project advanced in plan development, the priority concern was raised with life safety, building code deficiencies, and the Department of Health. The East Providence Fire Department became actively involved in the planning of life safety upgrades and the Health Department had concerns dating back about ten years. It was critical that the project planning satisfy previous code violations and in consideration of this, there were many changes implemented based on prioritization. Mr. Farrar explained that the last phase of the project is nearing completion and reviewed the remaining work and its schedule. Farrar Associates had been involved from 2011; ended in 2012, but has been working within the boundaries of 2011; both he and the School Committee are looking for closure. The Punch List has been ongoing; he expected a final review and completion of all punch list items as of March 2014 – monetized value \$12,500; other work has been done since. Meeting will be scheduled with SMMA Architects probably next week; credits will be added to the punch list unless there is a charge/change on**

**punch list or change order.**

**Chemistry/Science Lab - approved fume hood and case work – delivery schedule March 15, 2014. Iron Construction will install upon delivery; Iron has elected by means and methods to simultaneously complete its supporting infrastructure during fixture installation. The completion date for this lab area is April 15, 2014. At meetings, it was known there was a 3-4 month lead time on the hood; at School Committee facilities meeting, limitations were discussed; there was a whole series of change order requests; the last in February; took those from 2/19 - \$90,000 change order – he was told it would happen; extremely aggressive. When he reviewed Change Order cost for the project; noted “supervisor” cost and took \$6000 off; now down to \$90,000; there was some overlap there; he thinks reasonable and would go with it; he will pressure; they will be in there anyway, he will split cost with them; he will set up RIDE meeting (CHIPS); have to recognize amount of changes and how the project was administered; many things have been handled by a change order/directive; code deficiencies; additional life safety added; whole host of well documented items. All of multiple changes did not include time extensions; without having that cost, saved a ton of money; very positive piece, change directives and change orders; \$4988, less than 5% of base; fume hood and casework part of contract; outstanding change order \$96,000 has not been approved; he recommends knocking down to \$90,000; approval to get work schedule expedited; April 15th, if approved now can get moving tomorrow; only change on**

**science lab \$90,000. Ed Catelli and others approved at last meeting.**

**Mr. Farrar-\$90,000 can be funded out of the project; still under contingency on project; \$300,000 only \$200,000 used; leaves \$90 thousand to fund change order; last piece to complete project; science lab will be done according to SMMA plans approved by the School Department; he fears only part of work will be done; no warranty factor?**

**Question about when the hood was ordered; Mr. Conley pointed out that a four month lead time was never communicated to the School Committee; a 120 day lead time would have changed the School Committee's expectations completely; it is unfathomable this was not communicated to the School Committee. Mr. Ferreira agreed.**

**Mr. Farrar explained that this was a design, tear, custom; order placed, then modified.**

**Mr. Monteiro would like to see when the unit was ordered in October; no changes of function/design. Mr. Farrar stated that it was well documented in weekly job meetings with school personnel present.**

**Tony Simas (SMMA) stated that not much changed on it; same company for casework and hood to be shipped together; told this to Irons several times; he is just as frustrated. Mr. Monteiro requested the date of the order for the hood; level of confidence at a minimum;**

not once did anyone from Irons say we were not getting the hood until mid-March; all of the stuff could have been done in- process; he would legitimately challenge a four month lead time.

Mr. Conley stated that part of the frustration was that this was open ended and School Committee never saw a time frame; without that, this locks it into spring.

Tony Simas stated that he asked for the hood to be installed over Christmas break; Irons said yes, but it was never done. He recommended getting the work done as soon as possible; questions after.

Jim Farrar explained this can be done as a change directive. Mr. Ferreira asked for some documentation; a breakdown of the \$90,000; Mr. Taber not here; Mr. Moore not here; he was willing to go with \$175,000; every meeting we have new people and it keeps going around in a circle. Mr. Taber has information in a binder (Mr. Taber out for few days according to Mr. Farrar). Mr. Ferreira stated that he would not vote until everyone involved is present in the room – he thought that \$226,000 was a nightmare; where is the “well under \$90,000” that was stated at the last meeting? Irons not here now; all have to pay attention; this project is only one room at \$175,000.

Mr. Monteiro asked if the School Committee did not change the project, why did the work stop; someone stopped the project;

**concern about the thoroughness of Mr. Taber managing this project; who told that the contractor defaulted.**

**Jim Farrar explained these were well documented dates/change directives; Farrar does not give directives, they come from SMMA – contractor does not do anything until he receives signed orders. Irons does not always require a signature; not a handshake; it is a formal process which needs to be adhered to.**

**Mr. Monteiro asked who signed when the sinks were repositioned. (Tony – proposed change order)**

**Mr. Monteiro asked when the rough plumbing was moved, who changed it? (Tony – did work at own risk)**

**Mr. Ferreira stated that School Committee approved \$175,000; his point, School Committee asked to vote on those plans; plumbing not on the plan; he wants a signature for when it was moved; that is the crux of the problem. Tony of SMMA explained that when they received the order for the casework, Ben met with users to understand what they were getting.**

**Mr. Monteiro – teachers requested it; Tony to get prices and bring to School Committee. Tony does construction administration; he did additional drawings as part of the contract with SMMA.**

**Ed Catelli explained that the Superintendent, he and Mr. Monteiro did**

**not want to spend any more money on this project.**

**Jim – will make plumbing connections, fume hood, eye wash station, will complete their contract; when equipment comes in, they will install; doing work after a bigger problem.**

**Mr. Conley – requests from teachers; contractor doing work, not coming back to the School Committee. Tony said it was only for plumbing. Mr. Conley – should have come back to School Committee; contractor talked to teachers; they wanted XYZ; why presented to the teachers at all?**

**Tony – only six weeks; designed the lab; Tony – department should look at it; he never thought a crazy number.**

**Ed Catelli noted the NEASC requirements; we need a science lab; \$175,000.**

**Mr. Monteiro – take plans and continue working.**

**Tony – any chemicals still in prep room; chemical spill caused more delays**

**Mr. Monteiro told about those things, but never about the hood coming in March.**

**Ben talked about laboratory cabinets made of wood back in fall;**

**CHIPS special credit – change order (PR2) was about the cabinetry. Tony – Irons promised work during school break; nothing done; existing things still there (stack was part of 175,000).**

**Mr. Monteiro – this meeting was no better than last week, all agreed; would like reduced numbers for legitimate additional items; second phase of room.**

**Tony sent list back today; he should be responding back with numbers; Mr. Monteiro would like to see that; fume hood and cabinetry; if job over today what are we into – demo and materials in route; what's balance of \$175,000; from today; what bought today; what is needed to get where we wanted second time around. Mr. Monteiro asked for figures on what we have and what we do not have. Last week conversation about subs doing work.**

**Mr. Ferreira had an issue with \$226,000; quality of work, amount of money paid by the city – he thought shameful.**

**Ed Catelli – this was not mismanaged; a considerable amount of work has been done; we did not have a signed contract – this was done before.**

**Tony explained that SMMA never approves something they don't agree with.**



**Motion by Mr. Conley to request that we (Linda Dykeman, Assistant Finance Director) submit a request to obtain numbers; what we owe today; balance of \$175,000 by task; breakdown of \$90,000 through Farrar and SMMA, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 3-0.**

**Mr. Conley – motion that representative from Irons be present to discuss questions on the science lab; formally invited Irons, Taber, Mr. Moore and Linda Dykeman. Seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 3-0.**

**Mr. Farrar will try to make marriage work between Farrar and SMMA.**

**Mr. Monteiro commented to Mr. Farrar that his perception of what happens day to day is completely different; it is a lot looser than what Mr. Farrar expected it to be.**

**Motion to adjourn by Mr. Conley at 8:00 PM; seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 3-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee**